

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated June 2, 2004. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 5, 8, 13, and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 25-40 have been added.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 15, and 20 have been amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, and 15-40 are presently pending.

Claims 1-5, 7, 15, 17-20, and 22-24 stand rejected.

Claims 6, 8-14, 16, and 21 are objected to.

II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 8-14, 16, and 21. Claims 6, 8-14, 16, and 21 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

III. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit, concurrently with this Amendment, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) and a copy of the cited reference as an attachment thereto. Consideration of this reference and acknowledgment by initialing Form SB/08 is respectfully requested.

Shalon discloses a capillary printing system having a preservation device 101, which is disposed within, containing, or in contact with a printing device 11 and preserves the capability of the printing device 11 to print an agent on the substrate for long-term storage (Shalon, column 1, lines 55-58). Shalon also teaches that to manufacture biochips, the printing system must dispense different reagents on the substrate so that the reagents do not overlap. As shown in Fig. 2, Shalon's dispensers are positioned on the outer rim of the turntable. To prevent overlapping the dispensed reagents on the substrate, the dispensers must be aligned.

Claim 1 of the present invention has been amended to set forth "a positioning device, disposed on the conveying device, corresponding to the series of dispensing positions; and a retainer, disposed on the conveying device, corresponding to the plurality of positioning devices." Claims 15 and 20 have been amended to set forth the steps of "providing a conveying device having a positioning device and a retainer... conveying and positioning the substrate through a series of receiving positions corresponding to a series of dispensing positions by the positioning device and the retainer." Each dispenser of the present invention is aligned at its own position, and each substrate is moved by itself or is moved together with a fixture using the positioning device and the retainer. Thus, the apparatus of the present invention more easily adjusts position between each substrate and the dispensers. In contrast, Shalon's dispensers are aligned on the entire outer rim of the turntable, and the substrates are moved by rotating the entire turntable below the printing assembly. Shalon discloses actuators 213 which provide a positioning stage 214 and L-bracket 215 for attaching each of the print heads 91 (Shalon, column 8, lines 56-59), but Shalon does not disclose a positioning device on the turntable corresponding to multiple dispensing positions of the dispensers or a retainer on the turntable corresponding to multiple positioning devices.

Hence, Shalon does not disclose all of the elements of the present invention, as set forth in claims 1, 15, and 20. Claims 2-4, 7, 17-19, and 22-24 depend on claim 1, 15, and 20, which is patentable for at least the reasons described above.

foregoing, the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 15, 17-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: October 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Denise L. Poy
Registration No.: 53,480

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicants